

Your voice in Netherton and South Crosland



Your voice in Netherton and South Crosland 15th February to 14th March 2021

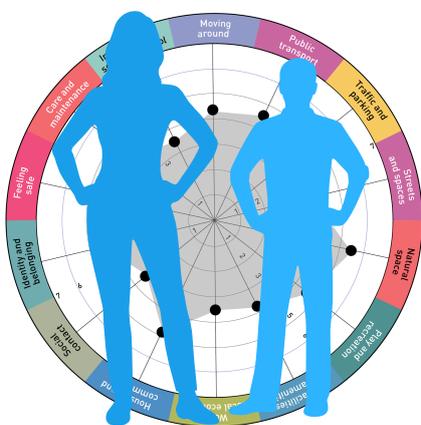
What we did

Netherton and South Crosland Community Group asked local people about what they thought of Netherton and South Crosland. We used a tool called the “Place Standard” which encourages conversations about any place (it could be your street, neighbourhood or town), using some simple questions. Working with local partners, we will use the results to make sure that our planning reflects local people’s priorities.

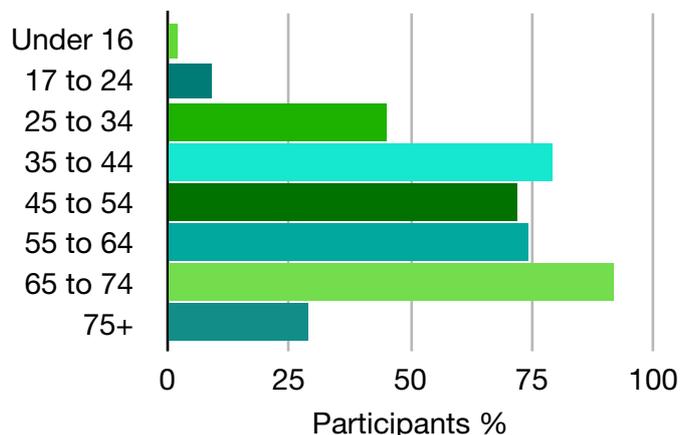
Who participated?

Everyone in Netherton and South Crosland could take part. As we were unable to have face to face conversations with local groups and individuals at this time, most people (393 of the participants) took part online. We also provided paper copies on request, along with a freepost return envelope. We promoted the activities through the Netherton Community Facebook page, leaflets, posters and banners, as well as via word of mouth. 10 volunteers helped to deliver leaflets and put up posters. Netherton Junior and Infant School, Hinchliffe's Farm Shop and Eco360 Hygiene Products displayed large banners.

402 citizens took part, each completing a Place Standard assessment.



Female 65% Male 35%
Other / unknown 0%



What participants said

Moving around



Key issues: Most people who commented on this theme were positive. People feel there are plenty of places to walk in the village of Netherton, both on the road and in the various wooded areas, some of which are ancient woods. There is lots of free open space to walk, although the terrain can be



a bit hilly. Off road paths are often very muddy and steep so are difficult to use and there is a need for more pavements, better signage of footpaths, safe cycle routes and speed restrictions. The key issues raised are the lack of footpaths and pavements which makes them unsafe and dangerous for walking, with narrow roads and speeding traffic. More traffic is using these narrow roads as short cuts, making them hazardous when walking or cycling. There are a lack of cycle routes, which makes it unsafe for cyclists on the roads.

Specific areas where there are issues include: the road to Hinchliffe's Farm Shop, Magdale where the children walk to Honley High School, Netherton Moor Road, Hawkroyd Bank, Bank Foot Lane, Netherton Fold and Lea Lane.

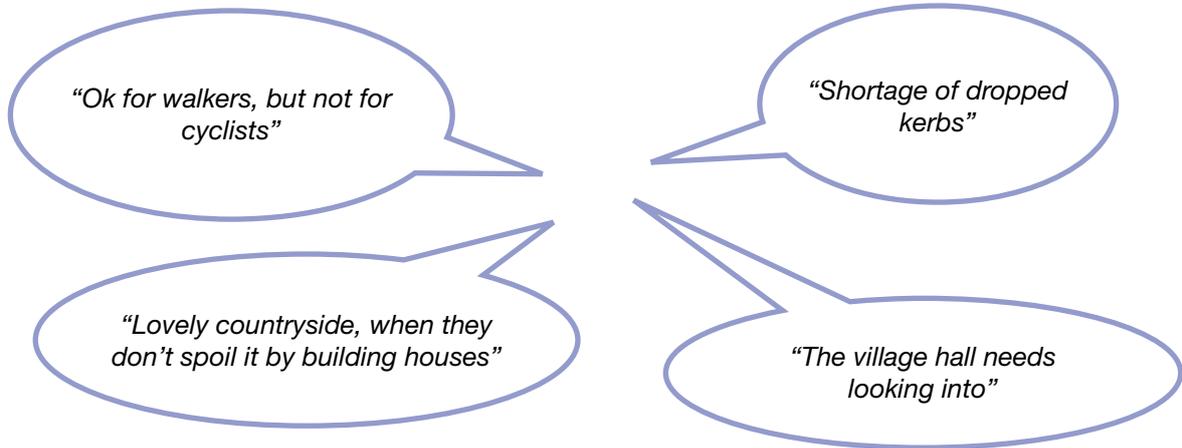
Other important issues people mentioned are missing road markings, poor street lighting, and poor signage. Accessibility is an issue because of these things. More dropped curbs for mobility scooters and wheelchairs could be provided and making paths and tracks more cycle and scooter friendly would be beneficial. Greenway development of the old railway into the Sustrans trail is a good solution to benefit the whole community.

Leaves on pavements, overgrown hedges, dog fouling, moss on pavements making them slippery, along with speeding cars and lack of speed limiting measures are safety issues for pedestrians in general, but also for those with restricted mobility or parents with prams. More pedestrian crossings and places for people to sit and rest are needed.

Despite the recognition that there are lots of places to move around and that people can access wooded and natural areas of beauty, with spaces to walk freely, participants have significant concerns about pedestrian safety, upkeep and access for all.

Suggestions: Make improvements to pathways generally, but some specifically. For instance, a kissing gate on the public rights of way leading from Lea Lane to the Hamlet to improve accessibility for more people, and pathways in Deane Wood making it possible to get to South Crosland on both sides of the river to create a nice loop. More signs and maps identifying footpath walks would be good, and provision of downloadable guided walks. Open up the copse of trees at the end of Lightenfield Lane and Coppice Drive bridleway, which can make people feel unsafe walking home in the dark. The village could do with another crossing near the Co-op along with some traffic calming measures..

276 people commented on this theme.



Public transport



Key issues: Participants said that there is a good bus service along Meltham Road from Meltham to town, but it can be too far to reach for older residents from the village. The bus service used to go around the

village more often for those less able. Some services are only one an hour and there is a limited service after 6pm. Within the village buses can be infrequent and unreliable during the day, but particularly from early afternoon through to and during the evening. More information is needed for bus timetables for the estate. There are two providers running a similar timetable, which can be confusing and they don't honour each other's tickets.



There is no easy walk to a train station, with Berry Brow being the nearest. Steep hills make this difficult to reach. There is no parking at Honley Train station. The bus service is poor for the majority of houses as routes are focused around the main Meltham Road and services into Netherton are rare. The South Crosland bus only comes a few times a day. Empty buses are seen on some of the routes. The cost of buses is a particular concern for families, often making it cheaper to get a taxi. There is minimal seating at the bus stops and little shelter from the weather. It is difficult to get to Honley and Holmfirth from Netherton.

A number of people said they do not use public transport.

Suggestions: Buses from different companies run through Netherton at similar times and bus tickets are non-transferable from one company to another - there should be standard pricing, and reasonable pricing might encourage more people to use the buses. Make improvements to bus, such as opening back up the old circular routes rather than buses from Huddersfield going separately to Marsden, Holmfirth and Meltham. Smaller services for older residents who do not drive to get to town or Morrison's, a direct route from Netherton to Honley or from Netherton to Berry Brow train station. Instead of running double decker buses, run single deckers when this would do, along with a move to electric vehicles, in consideration of the carbon footprint. There should be no charge to use the toilets at Holmfirth and Huddersfield train stations.

270 people commented on this theme.

"I feel that a much improved bus service might help relieve an anticipated increase in traffic, throughout the village"

"Buses seem to be less frequent and journey times longer."

Traffic and parking



Key issues: Participants raised lots of issues about parking, traffic and road safety. People are very concerned about the number of cars being parked

on pavements or grass verges. They are particularly worried about how dangerous this makes it for school children crossing roads before and after school. Parking on either side of some roads can make it difficult for cars to pass in opposite directions. Some households have more than one car and only a single driveway space, and there are fears that with a further 250 houses being built all these issues will become worse. People commented about poor and limited parking, a heavy flow of traffic and congestion at the main junctions in the area, the dangers of speeding traffic and there being little regard for pedestrian safety.



People highlighted poor parking, heavy traffic, congestion or speeding on particular roads where these issues happen in one form or another. These are Coppice Drive, Netherton Moor Road, Osprey Drive, Moor Lane, Delph Lane, Summer Street, Meltham Road, Sandbeds and Hawkroyd Bank.

Participants said they are generally concerned about pedestrian safety along roads where there are no pavements, and in high footfall places like schools, the Co-op and Hinchliffe's, suggesting that better policing or more car parking should be made available.

Suggestions: Participants made lots of suggestions for improving road safety, including speed cameras, speed humps, crossings and 20mph zones, lollipop ladies and double yellow lines, to stop cars speeding, protect walkers particularly in places where there are no pavements and improving safety for school children. More convenient and better parking could be offered in the village, which will encourage people to stop and shop rather than pass straight through, as well as it working to free up road space for traffic to pass more safely. Heavy goods vehicles cause traffic disruption or plough through the village, and something should be done to stop this. Some of the roads are in a poor state and this should be addressed.

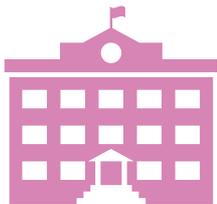
293 people commented on this theme.

"The roads are too narrow for cars to park."

"Traffic can barely pass each other."

"The 60mph speed limit on Nether Moor Road is ridiculous, there are no footpaths and this is a walking route for school children."

Streets and spaces



Key issues: People feel that Netherton is a good village which is well kept by most people. The scenery is good with some of the best views in Huddersfield. Key issues are around the village centre are a lack of parking, the estate, green spaces, dog fouling, the proposed new housing estate, fly tipping, pavements and street lighting.



171 people commented on the state of Netherton village centre. In recent years it has become extremely run down, not attractive and needs a lot of tender loving care. The buildings are falling into disrepair and it looks very dull and dismal with empty buildings and shops boarded up. The shops are limited and there's a lack of cafés, pubs and bakery. The village needs development with buildings cleaned up and better signage. Adding parking will help attract investment from trades and bars, pubs and restaurants. The roads, pavements and railings need improvement and there is an issue with speeding cars. There is a litter problem that needs addressing. There are no areas of seating in the whole village where people could congregate and there are a lack of community spaces in the centre. There are not many public spaces in South Crosland. There is no real 'welcome' to Netherton that makes you want to visit the shops and area.

Residents said they would like a more vibrant centre similar to Honley, with Christmas decorations, lights and a few hanging baskets dotted about.

Some people commented about the Co-op, with the delivery cages and piles of cardboard outside making it difficult for parking as well as general litter in the area. A lack of parking means cars occupy the main road at peak times and cause congestion, which can sometimes be dangerous.

108 people said what an eyesore The Village Hall is, asking how could this historic building have been left by Kirklees Council to get into such a poor state. It needs restoring and putting to good use, so it is of benefit to the community.

Several people said the council estate is bleak and it's not safe to walk there alone. There is a lot of rubbish including on the football field. Properties are not well maintained, some have boarded up windows and doors and some people are neglecting to get their bins emptied, causing concern about vermin (Spruce Drive Mews and the footpath to Sandylands, the footpath from South Street). Noise blares from windows from rowdy individuals and groups, and drug use is prevalent. The community centre needs work and has seen better days.

Some people commented about the play areas and green spaces, saying there are three nice parks which are well used but need upgrading with more equipment, including picnic benches as there is no community place to visit and relax. There are lots of green spaces and woods, the natural landscape is beautiful, but people would like the greenway walk to be completed. There are football fields, but no other sports facilities available. The grass verges are not cut often enough. Many roads have large weeds growing from the drains. There are problems with dog fouling and dog walkers not cleaning up after their dogs, which is a massive issue. More dog litter bins would be helpful.

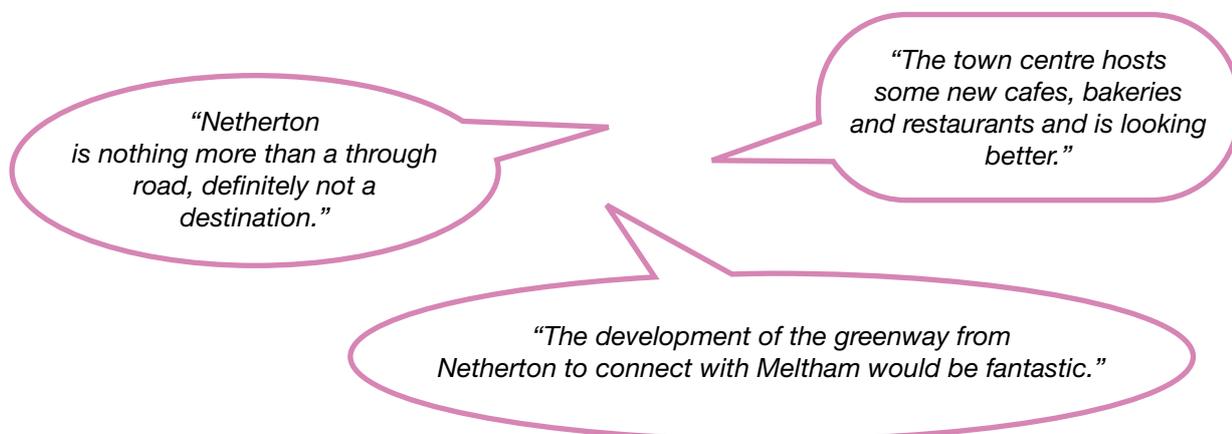
33 people made specific comments about the proposed new housing development, including that the council is trying to build housing estates on green belt land. People said that this will ruin the village, create more traffic and there will be a loss of green spaces where more houses are not needed.

Many people mentioned fly tipping on Netherton Moor, Meltham Road and Butternab which can spoil the idyllic look. More bins in public spaces are needed and the current ones need emptying.

Netherton can be difficult to get out of in icy weather, it being on a hill. Roads do get gritted, but only the bus routes. It's difficult to get out of Moor Lane, Chapel Street or Henry Fredrick Avenue. In very wet weather Armitage Bridge, Magdale and Big Valley can flash flood. The roads need repairing, particularly on Moor Lane and Delph Lane and better pathways are needed on Lea Lane, Netherton Fold and to Hinchliffe's. Pavements in some areas need sorting out - loose slabs and scruffy borders - particularly ginnels around Sandylands. At night some streetlights are turned out and in some places there are no streetlights at all, such as Netherton Moor, parts of Hawkroyd Bank and part of Old Bourne View Road. A lack of pavements can stop people walking at night.

Suggestions: Having more plants and flowers around the village would make it look nice, whilst in open land choose small areas that could be spring bulb planted and have summer bedding plants to create a wildlife pathway. The village community are really eager to have Christmas lights.

272 people commented on this theme.



Natural space



Key issues: 84 people commented that proposed new housing in the area will spoil lots of natural space, with increased traffic, noise and pollution. People are also concerned this will have a major impact on wildlife, as deer are regularly seen in fields.



There are lots of wooded areas for walking and exploring, where you can see rabbits, birds and squirrels. There are currently lots of fields where there are regular sightings of deer and fox.

172 people commented about being surrounded by beautiful scenery, footpaths and football pitches, good parks and woods, and having endless rural walks and open spaces to enjoy, such as near the farm and Magdale. The proposed greenway walk would be ideal, seating and accessibility would be a great addition if it can be arranged. There is currently a lack of seating available on walks.

Woodland footpaths could be dug out, as they have been covered half a foot deep in mud over the years. Improved facilities for children would be good, with things like a BMX track or skate park, the same as other villages. The parks aren't very good and quite run down. Better signposting for walkways and clearing of overgrown greenery would make them more accessible.

26 participants said that areas are spoilt by littering, dog poo and a lack of bins. There are some irresponsible dog owners. Sadly, fly tipping is an issue in Molls Springs, Netherton Moor, Meltham Road, Butternab and Hawkroyd Bank Road.

People with disabilities would find the area difficult to make progress in due to the topography of the land and the rough conditions underfoot in the woods and on footpaths. Local woods next to the village offer natural space that's not ideal for older people or those with disabilities.

There are no tree lined streets or any green open land in the village centre. Many people support the "Friends of Deyne Wood" and regularly give their £4 annual subscriptions. However, money is not an issue, more volunteers willing to help is what is needed. People who like to have seating around the playing field behind Osprey Drive.

Suggestions: With all the walks available for people, a printed or downloadable walking guide would be good. For cyclists, the old railway line should be converted into a cycle way, all the way to Meltham and Beaumont Park.

257 people commented on this theme.



"The council are doing a great job trying to keep our roadsides litter free. I have often congratulated our lovely lady road sweeper on what a great job she is doing"



"The bins on the bottom rec' don't get emptied often enough and waste gets piled up next to the bin."



"Concerned about the increased traffic and footfall, once the new housing development starts."

Play and recreation



Key issues: Most people who commented talked about playgrounds and play areas for children, which can be small and in need of improvements, investment and updating. Play areas are limited for older children and need a broader appeal to be enjoyed across the ages. Others said the parks are good parks, but with calls for improvement to plentiful recreational space.



There are football fields (goal posts taken down limits play) and a fantastic bowling green for adults, plus a community centre, but there is a feeling there are a lack of facilities both indoors and outdoors, especially for adults and teenagers. There are not enough safe places for children to play. Dog mess is an issue and more poo bins are needed. Roaming dogs spoil play areas and spoil the experience of being outdoors.

There is no hard ground skateboarding area or surface other than football fields. There aren't any Scouts, Guides or Brownies groups in the area and the nearest swimming baths is a long way away.

The community centre could be used a lot more for fitness classes or recreational activities and reinstating the tennis club would be good. The community centre or village hall could be put to more use with varying clubs for all ages. Some people would love to see a woodland trail of some sort through the woods.

Some roads are relatively safe for children to use on their bikes or scooters. There are no facilities for young children or teenagers to play out in South Crosland.

Thinking about facilities for older people, would it be possible to create a garden area at the top part of the playing fields on Hawkroyd Bank? This area is not used by the footballers and then only at weekends.

Suggestions: The good park areas could be complemented by having skate park facilities, basketball area and outdoor gym, which are common elsewhere. This would be further enhanced by having picnic tables or benches, for people to watch the local football or simply enjoy the outdoor space.

230 people commented on this theme.

"We access all the play areas regularly and are happy with them - our favourite park is on Marten Drive."

"Beaumont Park is minutes away and offers so much for our children."

Facilities and amenities



Key issues: Participants said that there are some good basic facilities and amenities like Hinchliffe's Farm, Co-op, take-aways, a post office, charity shop, pharmacy, dentist (though not NHS) and doctors. However, there are a lack of gift shops, florists, cafés, tea rooms, wine



bars and restaurants that are affordable. Facilitates to socialise and meet people at evening entertainment for all ages would be good, as some pub venues aren't suitable for everyone. The village lacks a bakery, butcher and greengrocer. People feel that there are too many hairdressers and beauticians, but no male barbers. The Co-op is too small, and Hinchliffe's Farm is expensive. People are really concerned about the increase in new housing and the impact that will have on the local amenities, especially the schools and doctors surgery. The doctors surgery is always busy and people feel it's impossible to get an appointment (even outside of Covid times). The GP surgery seems to need more staff and funding to cope with the local population.

There is a community centre, church hall and two school halls, but no library. The village hall is run down could be utilised, plus better use made of the empty buildings generally. Investment is needed. Adult learning or job support activities could be run in the community centre and a range of other positive social activities for all ages.

People need more places to do activities in, like yoga, exercise, childcare facilities, play gym, breakfast and after school clubs and places for new mums to meet. There is so much scope to make Netherton village a better place. People said it looks tired and is lacking in investment. Some suggested looking at what Honley has done, which has a nice vibe, to follow that model or Lindley and to work on making it more of a village feel. The village lacks a lot compared to other villages. South Crosland has a lack of amenities.

Driving through the village is unappealing, with things closedown or boarded up, such as the village hall, which people feel is a waste of space – something positive could be done with this building. As the village expands, places are becoming stretched.

Participants said that the nice village of years ago has now become little more than a drive through to Meltham and feels soulless compared to neighbouring Honley and Meltham.

The shops in Netherton are blighted by passing speedy traffic and would benefit from traffic calming measures and prioritising pedestrians and shoppers in the village centre.

Suggestions: More exercise trails could be installed near existing playground facilities, and more outdoor areas offering somewhere to sit would be good for people, but particularly for older people. More recycling facilities are needed, as these are scarce in the village.

295 people commented on this theme.

"The mobile library was much appreciated before being withdrawn."

"Limited evening entertainment for any age."

"Better use of the village hall could provide more space for community events.."

Work and local economy



Key issues: There are places for employment in the schools, shops, pub and small or home businesses, with some seasonal work at the farm shop. However, there are limited local jobs, advertising and information around businesses. Information is often only found on the

community Facebook page, which can limit its reach. With more investment in the centre there would be more job opportunities. People feel that Netherton is a dormitory or commuter village for people to work elsewhere - like Huddersfield, the valleys, Leeds or Manchester - or that its residents are retired.



The village hall and community groups for teenagers and pre-teens are very lacking. Having these groups could impact positively on confidence and employability, by offering opportunities to develop. A space for home-workers to meet and work with excellent wi-fi would be good.

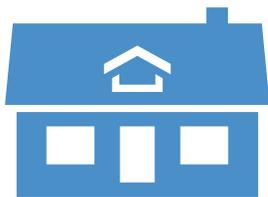
Suggestions: More investment in the centre would lead to more job opportunities, and using the village hall to host groups for teenagers would support a growth in their confidence to seek employment.

215 people commented on this theme.

"There are empty buildings which can be utilised for businesses to improve the local economy."

"The community Facebook group runs a 'Trade Tuesday' event every week, which demonstrates we have a wide range of self-employed businesses in the group."

Housing and community



Key issues: People feel there is a good mix of housing in Netherton, private and rental, ranging from council housing to large private homes. Houses quickly sell as it is a sought-after village to live in. The current provisions support those houses for basic goods and services but with another 250 new houses, it may not.



People are concerned that homes are unaffordable, especially for first time buyers and the younger generation who may have to move out of the area. Social housing and accommodation for older people are needed - there are a lack of bungalows being built in the new housing development and lack of opportunity to downsize. More affordable housing is needed. Participants feel strongly that the new housing development will be detrimental to the village. The impact on the infrastructure and amenities is a huge concern, for things such as schools, the doctors surgery and the increase in traffic.

There are issues on the council estate, attracting the wrong crowds. There are regular police visits and drug usage is a problem, making some elderly and disabled people feel vulnerable. Issues of violence at the flats on Deane Road have recently become a massive problem. Poor repairs and maintenance, and people not looking after properties on the estate, spoils it for other residents. Some areas are spoiled by irresponsible families, youths dealing in drugs and people being antisocial. There is a divide at present in the Netherton area, between those living in private accommodation and those living in council properties. Projects encouraging integration from both sides could only be beneficial to break down barriers and to overcome incorrect judgments.

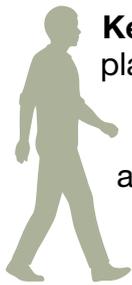
Suggestions: The new housing development should include social housing. Vacant and derelict buildings should be looked into as they can spoil the area.

222 people commented on this theme

"Young people should not be housed in flats above elderly folk."

"The coming development will hugely impact on how the place looks and feels."

Social contact



Key issues: Although there are plenty of outdoor spaces like parks, playground, playing fields and woods, over 150 people said there are a lack of indoor facilities or places to meet, other than the church, small community centre, working men's club, a pub and a café. Lack of affordable places to meet is also an issue.



People want a wider range of activities, events, and places to meet people of all ages, to take part in exercise classes, art, talks, walking and running groups, coffee mornings, cafes, and activities for children and young people (other than football).

All these activities would benefit people moving into the area. There used to be more activities available like 'The young Wives Group', a tennis club and annual trip arranged for the older people of Netherton. More volunteers would be needed to run activities. There are activities at the community centre and working men's clubs, but many people said they were unaware of how to find out information. Promotion in various formats would be helpful, such as using display boards and social media.

A central community space would make a difference. 37 people talked about using the village hall for community activities and using the community centre more. Others said there are no communal seating areas, no indoor places where dogs are welcome, and no toddler group stay and plays. Older people feel left out and young people may just hang around if they have nothing to do. People travel out of Netherton to socialise, to places like Honley, Holmfirth or Huddersfield. There are meeting spaces at Armitage Bridge Church, Brookes Mill and South Crosland Methodist Church. Lockdown over the last 12 months has made social contact more difficult.

Suggestions: Re-introducing clubs for younger and older residents of the village would be a wonderful thing for the community. There is a need for more shops, cafes and restaurants, areas of accessibility for all to sit and more all-weather paths for the elderly or infirm. A community directory of local clubs and community events would be helpful, so everyone can find opportunities to meet and get involved in the community.

235 people commented on this theme

"Netherton Facebook group is great for village presence, but no real groups,"

"There used to be a wealth of clubs for the younger and older residents of the village. It would be wonderful for our community if this sort of thing was reintroduced."

"I think what is on offer could be better publicised. There is plenty happening in Batley."

Identity and belonging



Key issues: People do feel they belong and say that people are friendly. Those who have lived in the area for a long time do identify with it and feel connected. Businesses have been handed down through generations and everyone knew its history, but people now feel this is a little lost. Changes have been for the worse and much of the history has been removed, such as the railway line. Run down shops spoil the area and it needs a central place for socialising activity.



The increase of size to the area and economic problems have had a negative impact. Netherton has a fantastic history, with old buildings that need to be celebrated. People feel it's a beautiful village that needs more of a community feel, like surrounding villages have. This could be strengthened by having a more lovely local economy in the village centre, where people can regularly use the amenities and spend their money locally. There's a lovely local Facebook group and very good community spirit, particularly during the pandemic - it was lovely to see people putting up rainbows, doing the Halloween trail, Christmas lights and cards. Things are improving with neighbourhood watch.

Contributing factors to Netherton losing its identity are having no local village events, some people not taking pride in their area and litter issues. The overall appearance and maintenance of Netherton needs work and the issues with crime and anti-social behaviour need addressing. Most people hardly know their neighbours and the village is too fragmented. There needs to be a focal point for the village. People are concerned about the new housing development and this is impacting on their sense of belonging.

Suggestions: An active community association with a strategic approach could help build more of a community feel. This could include bringing back the annual garden show, art exhibitions and other creative opportunities, and building up young people's knowledge of the area's history by having photo displays of old buildings and the train tracks. There could be village trails and the ancient well could be restored - all helping towards building up the community spirit over time.

218 people commented on this theme.

"There is a strong community spirit in Netherton."

"I feel it does have a positive identity, although does feel a bit neighbourhood watch at times."

"Learning about the local history gave me a sense of belonging."

"There is no identity or community, as people just live here and leave for work each day."

"Since moving here both my wife and I have frequently said how blessed we are. The community is amazing."

Feeling safe



Key issues: Some people do feel safe but a lot of participants are concerned about safety. There are a lack of streetlights on Meltham Road, Big Valley and Bourn View Road. More lighting is needed around the community centre where it feels unsafe, particularly in the evening. Roaming dogs are a concern, as well as thefts and anti-social behaviour.



Drug abuse, violence and gangs are a real concern for people. There is a huge amount of anti-social littering through beer cans, wine bottles and takeaway containers, particularly around Crosland Factory Road. The estate has lots of cars coming and going and rumours that there are lots of drug drops around the area. People feel it's too built up with all the avenues. Netherton centre can feel rough and unsafe at times as there can be groups of teenagers hanging around the Co-op area or by the council estate, especially in summer. There is some trouble and crime on the council estate. Participants highlighted Coppice Drive estate as an area of concern.

Suggestions: Whilst the area feels generally safe, the new LED street lighting is not bright enough and do the bulbs need upgrading. Having some Police presence to offer reassurance to residents would be positive, along with having CCTV in some key areas such as the junction of Meltham Road and Moor Lane and Coppice Drive.

207 people commented on this theme.

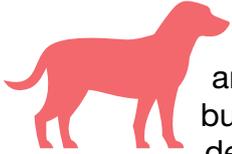
"As safe as anywhere. Used to feel safer. Community Police Officer long gone."

"Never felt threatened living in Netherton. I have lived here 55 years."

"People dare not ask neighbours to turn music down or to stop putting their unwanted stuff in their bin."

"We all know where the unsafe areas are."

Care and maintenance



Key issues: Some areas of the village are well cared for and some are not. Participants said the village is spoilt by buildings like the village hall and offices, which are either derelict or run down. Private buildings are very well looked after, but council buildings in the centre of Netherton are a disgrace.



The village is generally well looked after. People do take pride in keeping properties tidy and well maintained. However, there are no recycling bins in Netherton, only a couple of bottle banks at Hinchliffe's Farm.

Better maintenance of footpaths would be appreciated, with uneven flags and weeds growing through. There is a lot of dog poo and fly tipping. There is a fair bit of litter in the area around school routes and the football pitch. Public bins are not emptied often enough (or there are not enough of them) so they overflow.

There is no greenery in the village, making it depressing to drive through. There is room for improvement if an attractive space could be created as a centre for the village, which might help social cohesion along with introducing more activities around this space. There are very regularly piles of flytipping dumped along the various stretches of Sandy Lane, Sands House Lane, Madgin, Aborray Road, Intake, School Hill and Nopper. With the recently added lay-bys on Aborray Lane, this may increase.

Dean Wood is a lovely ancient wooded area but is becoming more and more overgrown and inaccessible. The footpath from Sandy Lane down to Netherton is eroding and becoming dangerous with steep sides, particularly in wet conditions.

Suggestions: Bringing more colour to the village centre by adding plants and flowers would make the area look brighter. Christmas lights would be good in Winter. Having a bottle bank to encourage recycling and a voluntary village group to do a litter pick once a month would be good.

254 people commented on this theme.

"The council should do more to influence those in social housing to take of their properties."

"The lovely lady who collects the rubbish and keeps our roads tidy is always out every morning doing a great job."

Influence and sense of control



Key issues: About a quarter of the people who commented said they feel that they have some influence and sense of control, whilst about three quarters do not.



Some people commented that they do not know how to get involved.

People say that they can express their opinions, in particular with regards to the new housing development, but they feel strongly that this does not influence change and the council does not listen. This has affected confidence in local government and decision making. The council needs to listen more to the public and respond to concerns on things such as parking issues. A public noticeboard and having better communication and engagement, so people can find out information on issues that will affect the area before decisions are made, would be welcomed.

The community Facebook page and group has already made such a difference to community spirit and local groups are beginning to be more active in improving community involvement, but not everyone has access to social media. Your Voice in Netherton and South Crosland has had a positive response and is a move in the right direction. People feel that their voices may have more influence as a group.

Some people mentioned a lack of local councillor support or presence in the area. Some people said that councillors were very helpful when fighting the housing development, and that one of the councillors has kept in touch since.

Residents are working hard to try and set up the Neighbourhood Forum, to allow them more opportunities for change in the local area. All will be welcome, and it is hoped that people will get involved and make a valuable contribution. Some people feel that because Netherton and South Crosland are part of the Crosland Moor ward, which is largely urban, their views are not represented. People feel they have more in common with Meltham and Honley, yet they are within a different ward area.

Suggestions: A regular community meeting in Netherton for local people and councillors to attend would support the idea of the community being listened to. Seeing some positive action from the council – such as doing something positive with the village hall – would help.

214 people commented on this theme.

“Lack of response from local councillors.”

Decisions already made and set before we can get involved.”

“Not aware of a forum to help contribute towards local decision making.”

“I don’t recall ever being asked for my opinion or input before.”

Netherton and South Crosland score sheet

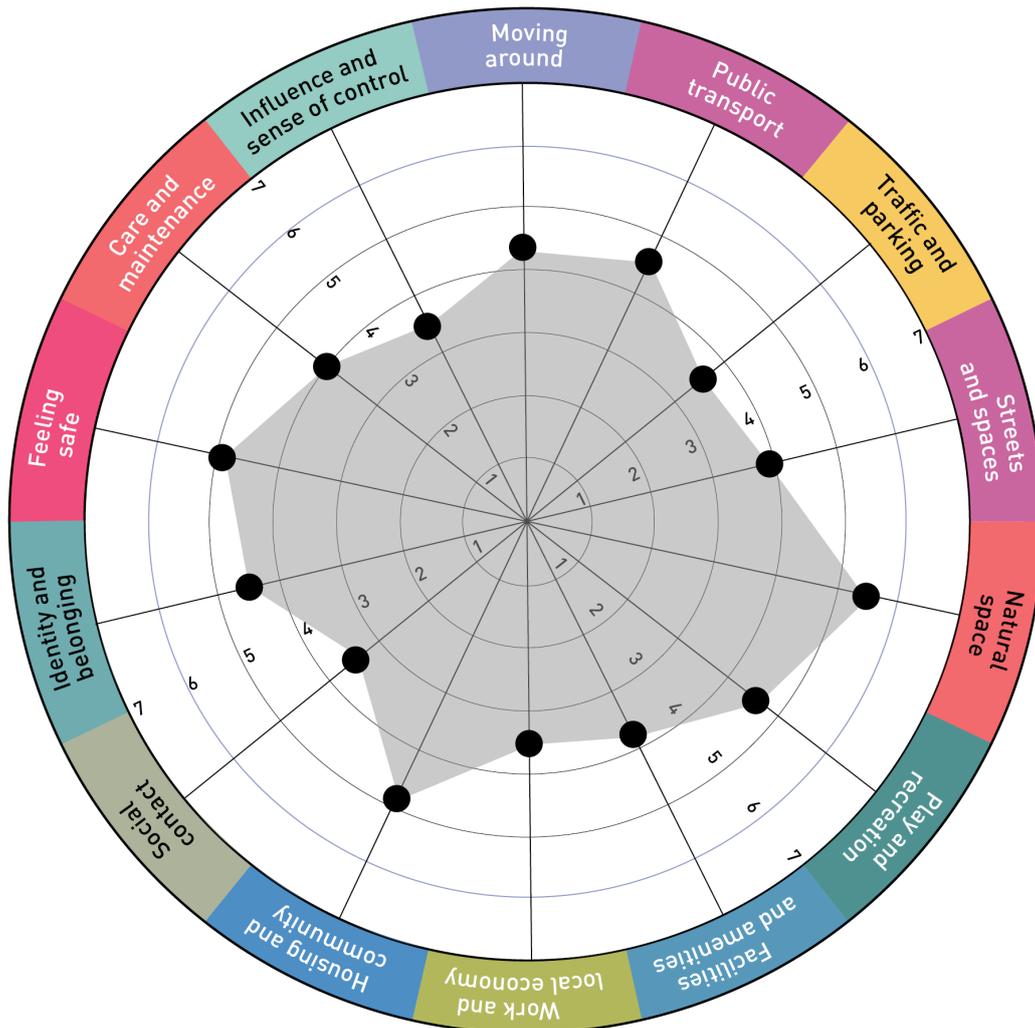
How people in Netherton and South Crosland scored their place, on a scale of 1 to 7, whilst talking about 14 different themes:

	Overall	Age 25 to 44	Age 45 to 64	Age 65 to 75+	Male	Female
Moving around	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3
Public transport	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Traffic and parking	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.6
Streets and spaces	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
Natural space	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Play and recreation	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6
Facilities and amenities	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7
Work and local economy	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5
Housing and community	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Social contact	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Identity and belonging	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Feeling safe	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Care and maintenance	4	4	4	4	4	4
Influence and sense of control	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5

402 people participated in the Netherton and South Crosland conversations, completing **402** assessments.

The overall scores are the **Mean average** of the **402** assessments.

Overall scores for Netherton and South Crosland



Natural space	5.5
Housing and community	4.9
Feeling safe	4.9
Public transport	4.6
Play and recreation	4.6
Identify and belonging	4.5
Moving around	4.3

Care and maintenance	4
Streets and spaces	3.9
Facilities and amenities	3.8
Traffic and parking	3.6
Work and local economy	3.5
Social contact	3.5
Influence and sense of control	3.5

Full data is available at:
www.HowGoodIsOurPlace.org.uk